

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Coulman on 18 June 2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. In Claim 50, starting in the penultimate line through the end of the claim, please delete the phrase "layer where said tantalum layer is not in contact with said bcc-phase tantalum forming region."
5. In Claim 62, line 3, after the word "substrate," please insert the phrase --, said tantalum layer comprising a substantially bcc-phase tantalum region and a non-bcc-phase tantalum region--. In Claim 62, line 6, please replace the word "a" with the word --said--. In Claim 62, line 8, please replace the word "a" with the word --said--.

### **CONCLUSION**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael La Villa whose telephone number is (571) 272-1539. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

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7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael La Villa/  
Michael La Villa  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794  
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